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Of Mice & Men, February 26-28, 2009

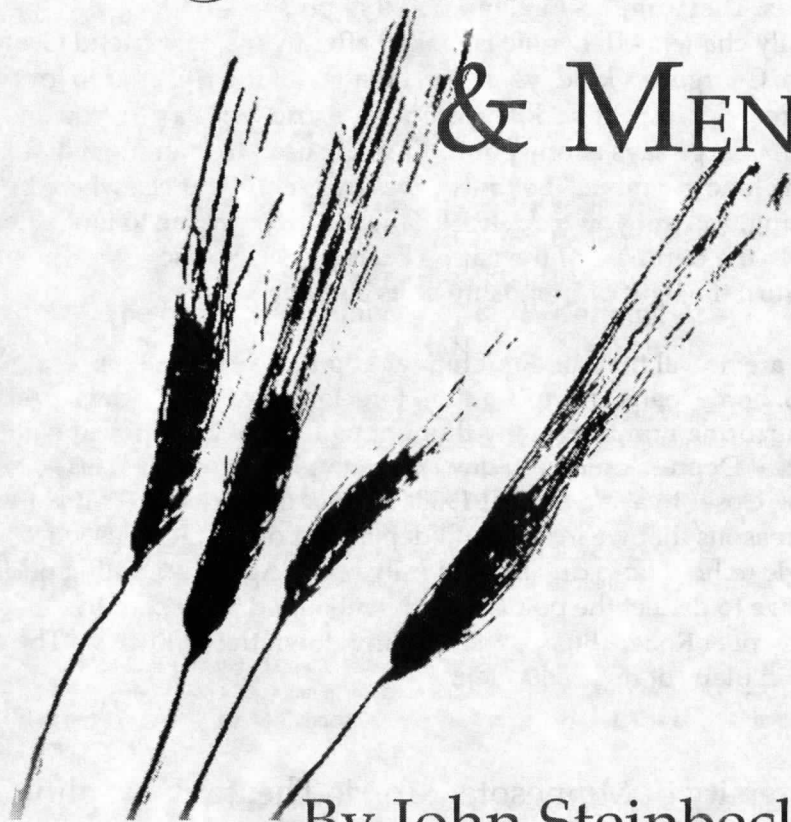
Theatre Arts Discipline

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Division of the Humanities
Theatre Discipline
presents

OF MICE & MEN



By John Steinbeck

February 26-28, 2009
HFA Black Box Theatre

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When times are tough it helps if you have someone you can lean on, someone you can travel the dusty road with. In John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* two men chase an elusive dream amidst a backdrop of the hardships brought about by the Great Depression in 1930's California. They are paid a meager fifty dollars a month for often excruciatingly difficult labor, but at least they have each other.

Lennie Small is a giant of a man, strong of body and feeble of mind. Childlike, he is drawn to soft things such as furry rabbits and cuddly puppies. They comfort him and possibly possess him too. Mildly mentally challenged, Lennie is looked after by his dear friend George Milton. George is a kind, yet cynical man who is a prisoner to loyalty and circumstance. "It's a lot nicer to go 'round with a guy you know," George says at one point. "You get used to it an' then it ain't no fun alone anymore." Lennie echoes this sentiment elsewhere by declaring, "...I got you to look after me and you got me to look after you." In the darkness of the nation's deepest economic downturn the light of friendship casts a strong glow.

Times are not all that different today. Approximately ten percent of all U.S. home loans are currently in foreclosure or ninety days past due mirroring numbers many thought would not be matched from the Great Depression. Every day the unemployment rate rises inching closer to a still distant 1930s high of fifteen percent. It is for these reasons that we look to and depend on one another as we struggle to hold onto dreams and rally hope. Against mounting odds we strive to deflect the pointed truth embedded in a poem by Scottish poet Robert Burns, and echoing down the centuries. "The best laid plans of mice and men..."

University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Discipline

Tap R. Payne, Professor of Theatre

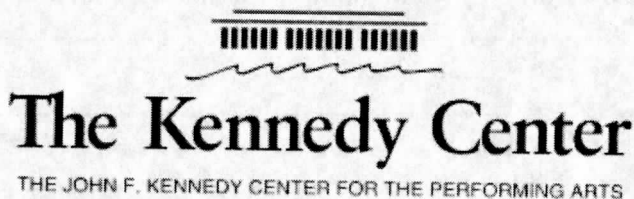
Ray Schultz, Associate Professor of Theatre
and Discipline Coordinator

Siobhan Bremer, Assistant Professor of Theatre

Liz Spohr, Costumes/Publicity

Jason Rasinowich, Technical Director

Merlin Peterson, Teaching Specialist



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™

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Stephen and Christine Schwarzman
The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
U.S. Department of Education
The National Committee for the Performing Arts
Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2010.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

CAST

George.....	Peter Ray
Lennie.....	John Eisenrich
Candy.....	Chris Hay
The Boss.....	Anthony Albright
Curley.....	Steven Gremmels
Curley's Wife.....	Hayley Saccoman
Slim.....	Sam Krump-Johnson
Carlson.....	Chris Goebel
Whit.....	Mikey Spaulding
Crooks.....	Rodney Fair

Understudies

George/Lennie/Curley: Mikey Spaulding, Boss/Carlson: Aaron Jansen,
Curley's Wife: Jenna Reiser

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act 1

Scene 1: A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Thursday night.

Scene 2: The interior of a bunkhouse. Late Friday morning.

Act 2

Scene 1: The same as 1.2. About 7:30 Friday evening.

Scene 2: The room of the stable buck, a lean-to. 10
Saturday evening.

Act 3

Scene 1: One end of a great barn. Mid-afternoon, Sunday.

Scene 2: Same as 1.1. Sunday night.

Place: An agricultural valley in Northern California.

DON'T MISS...

The 2009 Children's Show

Jack and the Beanstalk

Dramatized by William Glennon

April 22-29, 2009 for invited schools

April 24-25, 2009 public performances

Directed by Senior Theatre Student, Kelli Tucker

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Siobhan Bremer
Assistant Director / Stage Manager.....	Jenna Reiser
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Lucy Lloyd, Jessie Sherman
Set Designer.....	Jason Rasinowich
Costume Designer.....	Marco Avila
Lighting Designer.....	Alex Clark
Sound Designer.....	Aaron Jansen
Props.....	Ashley Nelson
Dramaturg.....	Anthony Albright
Poster Design.....	Justin Latt
Sound Board Operator	Lucas Granholm
Light Board Operator.....	Dani Schmitz
Wardrobe Mistress.....	Lizzy Marcus
Costume Shop / Publicity Office Supervisor.....	Liz Spohr
Costume Shop Staff.....	Lizzy Marcus, Emily Colacino, Tasha Young, Kari Stevermer Ally Roberts
Scene Shop Supervisor.....	Jason Rasinowich
Scene Shop Staff.....	Alex Clark, Jason White, Anna Jessup, Dani Schmitz Gene Arlook, Ashley Splonskowski
Publicity Office Staff.....	Lucy Lloyd and Hayley Saccoman (MAFS)
Set Construction.....	Stagecraft Students

SPECIAL THANKS

Jim Barbour, Peter Bremer, Allan and Ilene Burnham,
Jerry Danelke, Julie Eckerle, Bill Eihler, Janet Erickson,
Susan Gooch, Jayne Hacker, Keepers, Corrine Larson,
Colin Lynch, Mary Marcus, Pearls on the Prairie,
Cindy Poppe, Chuck Spohr, Mark Stabler,
Stevens County Historical Museum, UMM Saddle Club,
and Mike Vangstad

Of Mice and Men is presented through special
arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.